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➤BOOK † NOTICES.◀

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY OF ISRAEL.*

This book is intended to present the *results* of modern “destructive” criticism. It accomplishes its purpose, and this perhaps is the best thing that can be said for it. To read and accept the views of this book is to give up all belief in the value of the Old Testament either as a book historically true, or a book containing religious teaching. It is interesting to note how willingly and thoroughly our author accepts even the most doubtful of the modern hypotheses. One could not suppose from the reading of this book that there was an individual in the entire world who had any sort of faith in the general accuracy of the Bible. Such arrogance, as a rule, accompanies radicalism. There are some radical writers who occasionally use the expressions “perhaps,” “probably,” “it would seem,” etc. Mr. Oxford indulges in no such weaknesses.

THE STORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT.†

Egypt is not wanting in material for a most interesting story, and Professor Rawlinson has long since demonstrated his ability to weave such material into an attractive fabric. Throughout the book before us the fact is never lost sight of that it is the *story* of a nation which is to be told; so that the savant and explorer, indispensable as are his labors to the frame-work of satisfactory history, is not here allowed to disturb the narrative with his prosy accuracies. It is a question, however, whether even in the *story* of Egypt, the account should flow right on without any giving of whys and wherefores for certain assumptions. In some of the most important assumptions, should there not be foot-notes or appendices to account for what the text of the narrative takes for granted? For instance, there is the assumption that Joseph was the vizier of one of the Shepherd Kings. This is woven into the story as if it were a matter of course, although there is much to be said in favor of associating him with a native Pharaoh of the eighteenth dynasty, perhaps Amenophis III., or some Pharaoh of the same dynasty but a little antedating this Amenophis. No hint, however, of any such possibility appears anywhere. But this is a small matter. In tone, the book is thoroughly evangelical (from such an author this is to be expected); and it is well adapted to the accomplishment of its purpose.

* A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT ISRAEL. By the Rev. A. W. Oxford, M. A., vicar of St. Luke's, Berwick Street, Soho. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 26 Paternoster Sq. 1887. 12mo, pp. 147. Price, \$1.

† THE STORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT (the Story of the Nations). By George Rawlinson, M. A., Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford, etc., etc., with the collaboration of Arthur Gilman, M. A. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1887. 12mo, pp. xxi. 408. Price, \$1.50.